

Remarks

1. New oath or declaration required.

The joint-inventor Tawhidur Rahman is a citizen of Bangladesh and originally executed a standard PTO form declaration at Bangladesh. The other joint-inventors are US citizens. Tawhidur Rahman presently resides at Melbourne, Australia. A replacement oath executed by Tawhidur Rahman at Melbourne, Australia and notarized by a vice consul of the US is enclosed.

The applicants observe that on the Office Action Summary sheet an indication is made by the examiner that a claim of foreign priority is made and is acknowledged. No such claim of foreign priority has been made in this matter. A claim of priority from a US Provisional Patent Application (US Ser. No. 60/217,627, filed July 11, 2000) was made (see Claim for Priority at page 1 of the specification). The applicants request that the examiner correct the file to so indicate.

2. Correction of the specification is required.

The applicants respectfully disagree with the examiner's conclusion stated at page 2 of the Office action that "[i]t is impossible for the user to enter text-searchable information without the use of a full text-entry keyboard."

At the time the invention was made, persons having an ordinary level of skill in the art understood that a reduced-keyset input device, such as a standard telephone keypad, could be used—though not efficiently—to enter full text. One such method requires that the user input the two-digit ASCII codes for each symbol. Another method featured on many cell phones requires that the user repeatedly depress and release a single button corresponding to a group of letters, until the correct letter is displayed on a display device. Other similar techniques permit the entering of standard punctuation symbols.

Thus, contrary to the examiner's assertion, it is possible to enter text-searchable information using a reduced-keyset input device. It's not easy to do so, and is certainly not so efficient as using a full keyboard device, but it can be done, and that point was understood by those having an ordinary level of skill in the art at the time the invention was made and the application was filed.

The applicants therefore respectfully traverse the requirement for correction of the specification, and request that the requirement be removed.

3. Claims 1 and 6 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Murphy (US 6,028,679) in view of Wong et al. (US 5,631,745).

Claim 1 is amended to include the limitations of the original claim 2, and the original claim 2 is cancelled. Thus the amended claim 1 now provides that the processing unit (element 10 of Fig's 3A and 3B) is operable to store received fax messages on a server connected to the network (as illustrated in applicants' Fig. 10).

Neither Murphy nor Wong et al. suggest the combination defined by the amended claim 1.

The reference Lloyd et al. (cited at page 6 of the examiner's Detailed Action with respect to the original claims 2 and 3) fails to suggest a network connection between an Internet Appliance (element 1 of the applicants' Fig. 3A) and the server used to store fax messages (the applicants' Fig. 10).

The meaning of the previous sentence may seem to contradict what is clearly shown in the Lloyd et al. Fig. 2, but a careful comparison of Lloyd et al. with the amended claim 1 shows that there is no contradiction. There are two connections shown in the Lloyd et al. Fig. 2 with a fax server 224. One is a direct connection 250 between the fax machine 216 and the fax server, and the other is a network connection 240 between the client computer 212 and the E-mail customization system 220, which includes the fax server 224. Faxes are generated by a user at the fax machine 216, or are received and printed at the fax machine 216 and then transmitted to the fax server 224. The network connection 240 is utilized, if at all, to permit the user, via the client computer 212, to retrieve faxes stored on the fax server 224.

It is respectfully submitted that the Lloyd reference teaches away from the simplicity of using a network connection for both storing and retrieving faxes at the server included in the amended claim 1. The applicants believe their amended claim 1 overcomes the basis for rejection set forth by the examiner and request that the rejection be withdrawn.

The original claim 6 depends directly from the amended claim 1, and the applicants believe the original claim 6 is thereby rendered patentable over the cited art. The applicants request that the rejection of the original claim 6 be withdrawn.

4. Claim 5 is rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Murphy in view of Wong et al., and further in view of Mousseau et al. (U.S. 6,779,019 B1).

The original claim 5 depends directly from the amended claim 1, and the applicants believe the original claim 5 is patentable over the combination of all the references cited plus the ordinary level of skill in the art. The applicants therefore request that the rejection of the original claim 5 be withdrawn.

5. Claims 2 and 3 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Murphy in view of Wong et al., and further in view of Lloyd et al. (U.S. 6,779,178 B1).

The original claim 2 is cancelled, and the claim 3 is amended to depend directly from the amended claim 1. The applicants' remarks with respect to the Lloyd et al. reference set forth above with respect to the amended claim 1 are relied upon to overcome the rejection of the amended claim 3. The applicants believe their amended claim 3 is patentable, and therefore request that the rejection of claim 3 be withdrawn.

6. Claim 4 is rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Murphy in view of Wong et al., and further in view of Mousseau et al. (U.S. 6,779,019 B1).

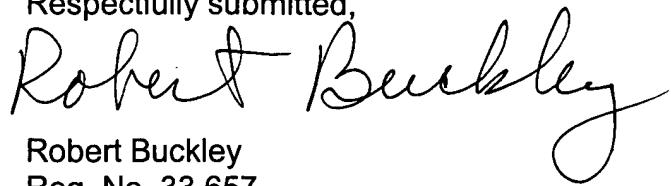
The original claim 4 is amended to depend directly from the amended claim 1. The applicants' remarks with respect to the Lloyd et al. reference set forth above with respect to the amended claim 1 are relied upon to overcome the rejection of the amended claim 4. The applicants believe their amended claim 4 is patentable, and therefore request that the rejection of claim 4 be withdrawn.

Conclusion

The applicants have provided a new oath, have traversed the requirement for correction of the specification, and have amended their claims to overcome the rejections. The applicants believe their claims, taken in conjunction with their remarks,

are now in condition for allowance and request that their application be reconsidered and their claims re-examined.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert Buckley".

Robert Buckley
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